

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2519

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1035

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: MORE IDEAS ON THE LEADERSHIP VOID

1. PROFESSOR GREGORY CASSIMATIS, FORMER MP (ERE) AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF ATHENS, TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT THAT PRESENT SITUATION IN GREECE IS UNIQUE HISTORICAL PHENOMENON BECAUSE THERE WAS A GOVERNMENT BUT NO AUTHORITY (POUVOIR). PRESUMABLY THIS VIEW HAS ALSO TO DO WITH THE QUESTION OF LEGITIMACY. CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS OF COUNTRY IN FACT IS QUITE OBSCURE. TO REMEDY SITUATION HE THOUGHT POSSIBLE SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO NOMINATE ARCHBISHOP SERAFIM TO POST OF PRESIDENT TO REPLACE GHIZIKIS. SERAFIM HIGHLY RESEPECTED BY ALL IN THE COUNTRY. HE WOULD THEN PROVIDE FOR THE CALLING OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION. PRECEDENT FOR SUCH ACTION WHICH COMES TO MIND IS BRIEF REGENCY OF ARCHBISHOP DAMASKNOS SHORTLY AFTER THE END OF WAR.

2. THIS THEME OF THE EXISTENCE OF A DANGEROUS VOID IN THE COUNTRY IS QUITE WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT GREECE AND AS AVEROFF, MARKEZINIS AND, RECENTLY, BISHOP LEONIDAS IN THE NORTH HAVE INDICATED, IT IS A SOURCE OF DEEP AND WIDESPREAD CONCERN IN ALL KEY SECTORS OF THE POPULATION. EMBASSY HAS EVEN A REPORT THAT A GROUP OF ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS RECENTLY DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ALTHOUGH COUNTRY IS

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ANTI-MONARCHIST, KING MIGHT HAVE TO BE REALLED TO

FILL VACUUM AND ABOVE ALL TO AVOID POSSIBLE FRATRICIDAL
AND BLOODY STRIFE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

3. THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF THE EVE OF IMPORTANT
DEVELOPMENT OR DEVELOPMENTS, ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE,
NOTHING AT ALL MAY HAPPEN FOR SOME TIME.
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